

IT IS BASKET-BALL.

THE NEW GAME WHICH IS BE-
COMING EXCEEDINGLY POPULAR.

IT IS CLEAN, HEALTHFUL SPORT.

A Gift of the Young Men's Christian
Association, It Was Invented by
Mr. James Naismith—Has Many At-
tractive Parts, and a Great Future.

Among the many good things that the
Young Men's Christian Association has
given to the world is that gift to the
sport-loving world, basket-ball, the king
of indoor games—the peer of all games.

Very naturally, the game was conceived
at one of the chief centers of association
thought and influence—i.e., the Association
Training School at Springfield, Mass.
Basket-ball is the happy solution of a
problem that for years agitated the minds
of physical educators all over the country.
Previously, no game fulfilled the condi-



MR. F. H. MERRILL,
(Trainer of the Y. M. C. A. Team.)

tions required in the matter of interest
and adaptability.
These conditions as set forth in the first
book of rules are as follows:

1. It should be such a game as could
be played on any kind of ground, gymna-
sium, large room, small lot, large field,
irrespective of the condition of each,
whether rough or smooth, so that no es-
pecial preparation would be necessary.

2. It should be such a game as could
be played by a large number of men at
once.
While five, seven, and nine men have
been found the convenient numbers for
teams, as many as fifty men on a side
have engaged in the sport. The number
of players is limited only by the avail-
able space.

3. It should be a game to exercise a
man all round.

Every part of the body should receive
its share of work. The legs are used to

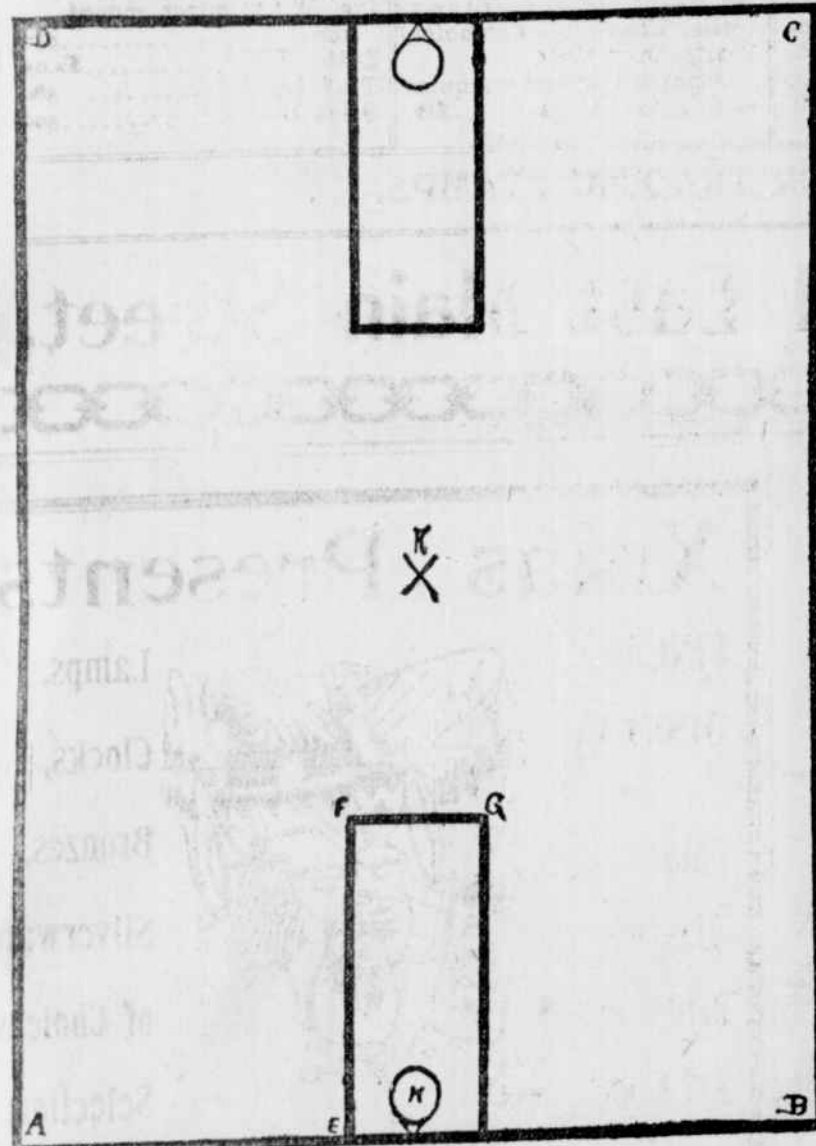


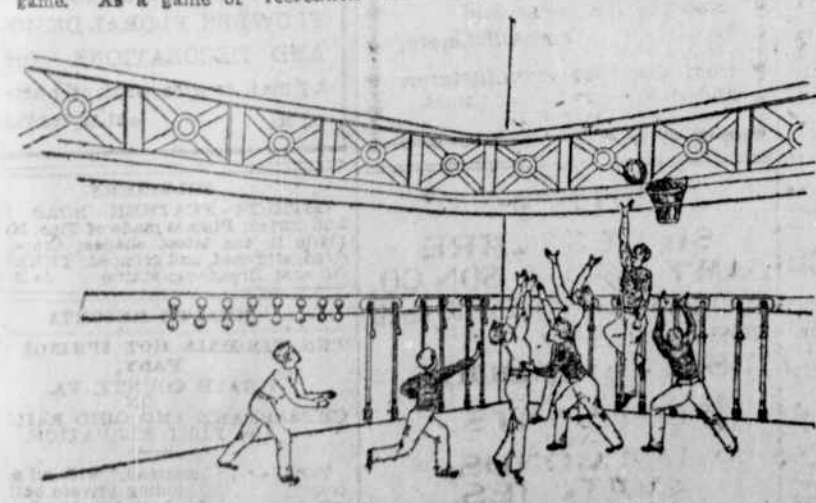
DIAGRAM SHOWING THE "FIELD OF PLAY."
A, B, C, and D, is a broad line about the
field of play, the distance from the line to
the free-throw line, 16 feet, 3 inches long. F-G is 6 feet. H is goal.

support the body and carry it by quick,
agile moves to a position of vantage; the
arms handle the ball, in the bendings
and twistings of the trunk the vital
organs receive such exercise as to make
them hearty and strong. It should cul-
tivate the different energies of which he
is capable. Agility is one of the essentials
to a game in which the ball must be se-
cured before an opponent can reach it,
and, when obtained, the opponent must
be beaten in his attempt to take it away.
This also gives us grace, as the perfection
of action.

Physical judgment is required and cul-
tivated in handling the ball and eluding
the opponent. To get "rattled" is to
lose all. A wrong pass or a moment's
hesitation may give the opponent the ad-
vantage, and result in a goal.

The game should also have enough dash
in it to cultivate mainly courage.
4. It should be a game so attractive as
to be played for its own sake.

This is one of the chief points in the
game. As a game of recreation and



AN EFFORT TO MAKE A GOAL.

skill combined it has thoroughly met this
requirement.
5. It should have little or none of the
roughness of Rugby or Association foot-
ball.

For this reason kicking at the ball or
striking with the fist were prohibited. All
running with the ball was done away with,

for if men run they must be stopped by
"tackling," which is considered a rough
"play."

The attention of the man should be on
the ball—not on his opponent.

6. It should be easy to learn.

Hand-ball, tennis, lacrosse, etc., re-
quire time, if one hopes to become an ex-
pert. Many men play basket-ball quite
well even the first time.

HOW THESE CONDITIONS WERE
MET.

These, then, were the conditions as they
presented themselves to Mr. James Nai-
smith, instructor at the training-school.
How well they were met is shown by the
growth and popularity of the game. Start-
ing at Springfield in 1891, it spread north,
south, east, and west, until it is now
played all over the country by both men
and women, in colleges and gymnasias,
and last year was officially recognized and
adopted by the Amateur Athletic Union.
Little did Mr. Naismith dream that he was
to establish a game that would be so
great an addition to American sports.

The rules of the game have been changed
but little during the six years of its ex-
istence, and all modifications have been
simply to preserve the clean sport.

THE GAME AS IT IS.

Briefly, then, the game is as follows:
Given five men on a side, each arranged
on the floor as centre, right, and left-
forward (to throw into goal), left-
and right-guard (to keep the ball out of goal).
These take positions on the floor, centre
in middle, forwards to the left and right
of their respective goals, the guards be-
ing their opponents.

The officials of the game are referee,
two umpires, score-keeper, and time-
keeper. The referee is the superior
official. All regulations of the game are
under his control, and he is judge of the
ball when in play. The umpires are judges
of the men, and shall call all fouls.
A game consists of two 20-minute
halves, with 15 minutes intermission.
The ball is put in play by the referee
in tossing it into the air at right angles
to the side lines, so that it will drop near
the centre.

A goal made from the field counts 2
points; one thrown from a foul, 1 point.
Fouls are classified as general and dis-
qualified.

RESTRICTIONS OF THE GAME.

1. No one but the captain can talk to
officials. Only centre men may touch the
ball when tossed up. Kicking the ball,
or striking with the fist; carrying the ball;
tackling, holding, pushing opponents; un-
necessarily delaying the game.

2. Players are disqualified for striking,
kicking, shouldering, tripping, backing,
or unnecessary rough play.

The goal are hammock-nets of cord,
suspended from metal rings; are 18 inches
inside diameter, and are placed 10 feet
from the playing surface.

Of course it can be made rough, or
course slight injuries are often caused.
But because the game is an open, though
a fast one, there is no such possibility of
serious injury as foot-ball affords. The
danger of basket-ball is not that of per-
sonal injury, but that it will, through its
very popularity, detract from the more
important, though more sedate, class-
work of the gymnasium. Like fire, 'tis a
good servant, but a bad master.

To my mind basket-ball is not cal-
culated to, or will it ever, supplant base-
ball or foot-ball. As great a popularity,
however, is anticipated for it as an out-
door game as it has as an indoor one.
Such a popularity would rival that of the
other games mentioned. Basket-ball cer-

tainly has the advantage that it can be
played on a small lot, while both other
games demand a good-sized field. Base-
ball demands more practice; foot-ball
more muscle. Basket-ball is too deeply
rooted in the American heart to be sup-
planted. And in the present State of
sport, as it is played it is mainly an ex-
hibition of strength.

BUT TWO TEAMS HERE.

There are two teams here—of the Young
Men's Christian Association, and Richmond
College. Mr. Frank H. Merrill, Physical
Director of the Young Men's Christian
Association, is captain of the former team,
while Mr. Oscar L. Owens captains the
college organization. These teams have
frequently antagonized each other on the
field, and in the gymnasium of the Young
Men's Christian Association, and their ex-
hibitions of the great sport and many
good parts of the game have made for it
many friends in Richmond.

THE HUSTLERS.

changes in the machinery of State gov-
ernment. You will never hear of Henry
Fairfax, or George Morris, or George Ke-
sel, in the forefront of a movement State
fundamental changes in the present State
laws. They all profess an ardent desire
to lessen the expenses of government,
but are strongly opposed to anything like
haste in effecting the important
changes necessary. They will probably
render the State excellent service in put-
ting on the brakes to prevent hasty and
ill-considered legislation. The three are

There are several senators entitled to
entrance into the group to which H. D.
Flood, W. M. Flanagan, R. E. Boykin,
John E. Mason, Robert Turnbull, Henry
S. Kane, Eugene Withers, and George A.

These are the Hustlers of the Senate. A
measure in which either is interested, no
matter how unimportant, receives the
hardest work for its successful work in
every chamber. There is no looking back
when their hands are put to the plow.
They go in to win, and they win. This
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